

THE LORD'S - COVENANTS OF PROMISE

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Our Approach to the Study of Covenants

We are studying the **Covenants** for ourselves. [Not adopting an existing Theology on Covenants]

We are starting in Genesis and working forward through the Old Testament to understand how **they** are **Chronologically** and **Progressively Revealed** and how each **Covenant** builds on or does not build on each previous **Covenant**.

The COVENANT Definition – Update One

COVENANT Definition: Update One

COVENANT of **GOD**. A **Promise** of **God**, always initiated and established by **God**, **Gen 6:18, 9:9, 11, 17** between **God** and a **Person**, a **People** Group, or all **Living** things, **Gen 9:10, Gen 9:17**, according to **His** Plan, Purpose and Will.

COVENANT of **GOD**. as “**Promises**”, often with “**I will**” or “**I shall**” statements, that “will come to pass”. IF the **Covenant** specified certain binding conditions for **God** to fulfill both parties’ obligations then **it** was considered a **Unilateral** or **Un-Conditional Covenant**.

IF the **Covenant** specified certain binding conditions for **God** to fulfill, **God’s** Part, and separate conditions for **Man** to fulfill, **Man’s** Part, then **it** was considered a **Bi-lateral** or **Conditional Covenant**.

COVENANT of **GOD**, often has **offered burnt (killed) offerings**, **Gen 8:20, Gen 22:2, Rom 8:3**

COVENANT of **GOD**, often has “**a sign**” to “**remember**” or to identify with, that **Covenant**, **Gen 9:12**

COVENANT of **GOD**, is often identified as an “**everlasting covenant**”, **Gen 9:16, Gen 17:7, Jer 32:40**

Interpretation: Context or Meaning

No Verse of Scripture should be interpreted by itself !

“No Verse is an Island; it is always connected to the Mainland !”

Rule of Context: “A Text, Out of **Context**, Becomes a **Pretext**, for a Proof Text !”

Context (Immediate > Near > Far)

“the text or speech that comes immediately before and after a particular phrase or piece of text and that influence how it is used and what it means” Cambridge Dictionary

Pretext (Out of Context)

“a pretended reason (not the real reason) for doing something that is used to hide the real reason” Cambridge Dictionary

The Meaning of The Text

Don’t ask, “What does **The Text** mean to **me** ?”

The meaning of **The Text**, is always **the author’s** intended meaning.

The meaning of **The Text**, is what it meant to **the original recipients** (audience).

The Text always means, what it has always meant.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS – PART 4A

Working Outline > **Genesis 17:1-8** (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read Genesis 17:1-8 Abram was 99 years old, Gen 17:1, Sarai 90 years, 17:17, Ishmael 13 years (99-86=13yrs)
Genesis 17:1-8

- I. 1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old,
 - A. the Lord (Yahweh) appeared to Abram and said to him, (Gen 12:7, 18:1)
 1. “I am God Almighty (El Shaddai); (Gen 28:3, 35:11)
 2. Walk before Me, and be blameless.
 3. 2 “I will establish My covenant (Gen 15:18) between Me and you,
 4. And I will multiply you exceedingly.” (Gen 13:6, 15:5)
 - B. 3 Abram fell on his face, and God (Elohim) talked with him, saying,
 1. 4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
 2. And you will be the father (Non-Physical father) of a multitude of nations. (12:2, Rom 4:11)
 3. 5 “No longer shall your name be called Abram (exalted Father),
 - a. But your name shall be Abraham (Father of multitude);
 - b. For (Reason) I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. (12:2, Rom 4:11)
 4. 6 “I have made (will make) you exceedingly fruitful, (Fulfilled, Ex 1:7)
 5. and I will make nations of you, (12:2, Rom 4:11)
 6. and kings will come forth from you. (Gen 17:16, Jacob, 35:11)
 7. 7 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you
 - a. and your descendants (seed) after you
 - b. throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant,
 - i. to be God (Elohim) to you and to your descendants (seed) after you.
 - C. 8 “I will give to you and to your descendants (seed) after you,
 1. the land of your sojournings (temporary Living place),
 - a. all the land of Canaan, (12:7, 15:8)
 - i. for an everlasting possession; (Acts 7:5)
 2. and I will be their (your descendant’s) God (Elohim).”

Abram’s Problem - Being both Childless and having innumerable Descendants

First Abram was “childless”, 15:2, has “no offspring”, 15:3, at 85 years old (86-1), 16:16, Sarai barren, 16:1

Second Abram assumes “one born in my house is my heir”, 15:3, Eliezer of Damascus, 15:2

but the Lord says, “one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” 15:4

This established, by promise, that Abram’s heir will be a physical descendant from his “own body”

Third Abram, 86 years old, has son Ishmael through Hagar, 16:4, 16:16. Sarai still barren, 16:1

Ishmael seems to fulfill promise, of Abram’s heir will be a physical descendant from his “own body” ?

Ishmael will become a great Nation with many descendants, 16:11, 17:20

Fourth Abram, 13 years later at 99 years old, God appears to him concerning His covenant with Abram.

Abrahamic Covenant was established “between” Abraham and His Physical descendants

- (1) Covenant established “between” God and Abraham Personally

“I will establish My covenant (Gen 15:18) between Me and you (Abram)”, 17:2, 17:4, 17:7

“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you (Abram)”, 17:4

- (2) Covenant established “between” God and Abraham and Abraham’s Physical descendants

“I will establish My covenant between Me and you (Abram), and your descendants after you”, 17:7

“I will multiply you exceedingly”, 17:7. Same as: Making Abram, into a great nation, 12:2

The Covenant is “between”, 17:2, 7, 10, 11, or “with”, 17:4, Abram and his Physical Descendants.

- (3) Covenant established Abraham as the (Non-Physical father) of a multitude of nations, 17:4, Rom 4:11

Same as: Blessing in Abram, of all families (nations) (Non-Physical Descendants), Gen 12:2

Read Rom 4:11, “so that he might be the father (spiritual Father), of all who believe....”

Abrahamic Covenant's - 8 Promises, in Genesis 17:1-8

- I. I will establish My covenant (Gen 15:18) between Me and you and your descendants, 17:2, 17:4, 17:7
 1. I will multiply you exceedingly.” 17:2, 17:6 (Gen 13:6, 15:5) (Fulfilled, Ex 1:7)
 2. Abram will be the father (Non-Physical father) of a multitude of nations. (12:2, Rom 4:11)
 3. No longer called Abram (exalted Father), But Abraham (Father of multitude);
 - a. For (Reason) I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. (12:2, Rom 4:11)
 4. I will make nations of you, (12:2, Rom 4:11)
 5. Kings will come forth from you. (Gen 17:16, Jacob, 35:11)
 6. My covenant will be an everlasting covenant, 17:7
 7. I will be God (Elohim) to you and to your descendants (seed) after you. 17:7, 17:8
 8. I will give to you and to your descendants (seed) after you,
 - a. the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, (17:8, 12:7, 15:8)
 - b. for an everlasting possession; (17:8, Acts 7:5)

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS – PART 4B

Working Outline > Genesis 17:9-14 (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read Genesis 17:9-14 Abram was 99 years old, Gen 17:1, Sarai 90 years, 17:17, Ishmael 13 years (99-86=13yrs)

- I. 9 God said further to Abraham,
 - A. “Now as for you (Abraham), you shall keep My covenant,
 1. you and your descendants (Physical seed) after you
 2. throughout their generations.
 - B. 10 “This is My covenant, which you shall keep,
 - a. between Me and you and your descendants (seed) after you:
 2. every male among you shall be circumcised.
 3. 11 “And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin,
 - a. and it (circumcision) shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.
 4. 12 “And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised
 - a. throughout your generations,
 5. a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner,
 - a. who is not of your descendants (seed).
 - b. 13 “A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money
 - c. shall surely be circumcised;
 - d. thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.
 6. 14 “But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin,
 - a. that person shall be cut off (separated) from his people;
 - i. he has broken (failed) My covenant.”

Q1: In verse 10, Who is to be circumcised? A1: “every male among you shall be circumcised”> All ages

Q2: In verse 12, Who is to be circumcised? A2: “every male eight days old shall be circumcised > Babies

Q3: In verses 12-13, Who is to be circumcised?

A3: a servant born in the house or bought with money, not of your descendants, shall be circumcised.

Q4: In verse 14, what will become of un-circumcised males?

A4: that person shall be cut off (separated) from his people; he has broken (failed) My covenant.

Q5: In verse 11, who is the sign of the covenant between? A5: between God and Abram

The Purpose of Circumcision

Circumcision identified outwardly those circumcised males with God's Covenant Promise with Abram

Circumcision identified males and their descendants, in procreation, with the Covenant Promise.

Circumcision identified Covenant Promise to “be in your flesh”, 17:13, and outward sign. Read Acts 7:8

Circumcision identified circumcised descendants of Abram, with the Nation of Israel, Read Eph 2:11-12

Circumcision of the Heart

Moses said that God would circumcise the hearts of His people to love Him (Deut 30:6).

Paul wrote that “circumcision of the heart” was being inwardly set apart “by the Spirit” (Rom 2:25-29, 4:11).

Unbelief is described as having an un-circumcised heart (Jer 9:26, Ezek 44:7-9).

GOD’S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS – PART 4C

Working Outline > Genesis 17:15-21 (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read Genesis 17:15-21 Abram was 99 years old, Gen 17:1, Sarai 90 years, 17:17, Ishmael 13 years (99-86=13yrs)

- I. 15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife,
 - A. you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah (princess) shall be her name.
 - B. 16 “I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her.
 - C. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations;
 1. kings of peoples will come from her.”
- II. 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart,
 - A. “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old ?
 - B. And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child ?”
- III. 18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You !”
 - A. 19 But God said, “No, but Sarai your wife will bear you a son,
 1. and you shall call his name Isaac;
 2. and I will establish My covenant with him, 17:21
 - a. for an everlasting covenant
 - b. for his descendants after him.
- IV. 20 “As for Ishmael, I have heard you;
 - A. behold, I will bless him,
 - B. and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly.
 - C. He shall become the father of twelve princes,
 - D. and I will make him a great nation.
- V. 21 “But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, 17:19
 - A. whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”

Abraham’s New Name means (Father of multitude), the father of a multitude of nations, back in Gen 17:5

Sarah’s New Name means (princess) and shall be (a mother of nations), here in Gen 17:16

They together will be the Father and Mother of a multitude of nations

Q1: In verse 16, What are 3 things God will do for Sarah ?

- A1:** (1) I will bless her, and give you a son by her.
(2) I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations;
(3) Kings of peoples will come from her.”

Q2: In verse 19, What are the 3 provisions of Isaac’s Covenant ?

- A2:** (1) I will establish My covenant with him
(2) I will establish My covenant “for an everlasting covenant”
(3) I will establish My covenant “for his descendants after him”

Q3: In verse 20, What are the 3 provisions of Ishmael’s Covenant ?

- A3:** (1) I will bless him
(2) I will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly
(3) He shall become the father of twelve princes
(4) I will make him a great nation

The Oath God Swore to Abraham

Read 1 Chronicles 16:15-18

Read Luke 1:67-75

Read Heb 6:13-18

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in **Gen 17:1-8**

The **Promise** of **I will** establish **My covenant** between **Me** and **you**, 17:2, 17:7, 15:18

The **Promise** of **I will** multiply **you** exceedingly.” 17:2, 13:6, 15:5

The **Promise** of **God** said, **behold**, **My covenant** is **with you**, 17:4

The **Promise** of **Abraham** will be **the father** (Non-Physical) of a **multitude of nations**. 17:4, 12:2, Rom 4:11

The **Promise** of **Abram's name** shall be **Abraham** (Father of multitude), 17:5

For (Reason) **I will** make **you the father** of a **multitude of nations**. 12:2, Rom 4:11

The **Promise** of **I** have **made** (will make) **you** exceedingly fruitful, 17:5, Fulfilled, Ex 1:7

The **Promise** of **I will** make **nations** of **you**, 17:6, 12:2, Rom 4:11

The **Promise** of **Kings** will come forth from **you**. 17:6, 17:16, Jacob, 35:11

The **Promise** of **I will** establish **My covenant** between **Me** and **you** and **your descendants**, 17:7

The **Promise** of **establishing My covenant** throughout **their generations** for an **everlasting covenant**, 17:7

The **Promise** of being **God** (Elohim) to **you** and to **your descendants** after **you**. 17:7, 17:8

The **Promise** of **I will** give to **you** and to **your descendants** after **you**, the **land of your sojournings**, 17:8

The **Promise** of giving **you** all the **land of Canaan** for an **everlasting** possession, 17:8, 12:7, 15:8, Acts 7:5

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in **Gen 17:9-14**

God said to **Abraham**, **you** and **your descendants** after **you** shall **keep My covenant**, 17:9

This is **My covenant**, which **you** shall **keep**, every **male** among **you** shall be **circumcised**, 17:10

circumcision shall be **the sign of the covenant** between **Me** and **you**, 17:11

every **male** among **you** who is **eight days old** shall be **circumcised**, 17:12

every **servant** who is born or bought who is **not** of **your descendants** shall be **circumcised**, 17:12

thus shall **My covenant** be **in your flesh** (outward sign) for an **everlasting covenant**, 17:13, Acts 7:8

All **uncircumcised males** shall be cut off (separated) from **his** people, 17:14

All **uncircumcised males** have broken (failed) **My covenant**. 17:14

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in **Gen 17:15-21**

The **Promise** of **God** said **you** shall not call **her** name **Sarai**, but **Sarah** (princess), 17:15

The **Promise** of **I will bless her**, and indeed **I will** give **you** a **son** by **her**, 17:15

The **Promise** of **I will bless her**, and **she** shall be a **mother** of **nations**, 17:16

The **Promise** of **kings** of peoples will come from **her**, 17:16

The **Promise** of **Sarai your wife** will bear **you** a **son**, and **you** shall call **his** name **Isaac**; 17:19

The **Promise** of **I will** establish **My covenant** with **him** (Isaac), 17:19, 17:21

The **Promise** of **establishing My covenant** for an **everlasting covenant** for (Isaac's) **descendants**, 17:19,

The **Promise** of **My covenant I will** establish with **Isaac**, 17:19

The Lord appeared as a **Man** and **2 Angels** appeared as **Men**, to **Abraham**, and **Ate**.

Read Genesis 18:1-8

The Lord appeared as a **Man** > Genesis 18:1, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 30,31, 33 and 18:22-33

2 Angels as **Men** > Genesis 18:2, 22, 19:1, 19:15 and 19:1-22

Abrahamic Covenant – Gen 17:1-8

Abrahamic Covenant is progressively revealed in the following passages.

Gen 12:1-3, 7

Gen 13:14-17

Gen 15:12-21

Gen 17:1-8

Gen 18:18-19

Gen 22:9-19



- The **Promise** of **I will establish My covenant between Me and you**, 17:2, 17:7, 15:18
- The **Promise** of **I will multiply you exceedingly.**” 17:2, 13:6, 15:5
- The **Promise** of **God** said, **behold, My covenant is with you**, 17:4
- The **Promise** of **Abraham** will be **the father** (Non-Physical) of **a multitude of nations**. 17:4, Rom 4:11
- The **Promise** of **Abram’s name** shall be **Abraham** (Father of multitude), 17:5
 - For** (Reason) **I will make you the father** of **a multitude of nations**. 17:5, 12:2, Rom 4:11
- The **Promise** of **I have made** (will make) **you** exceedingly fruitful, 17:6, Fulfilled, Ex 1:7
- The **Promise** of **I will make nations** of **you**, 17:6, Rom 4:11
- The **Promise** of **Kings** will come forth from **you**. 17:6, 17:16, Jacob, 35:11
- The **Promise** of **I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants**, 17:7
- The **Promise** of **establishing My covenant** throughout **their generations** as **everlasting covenant**, 17:7
- The **Promise** of being **God** (Elohim) to **you** and to **your descendants** after **you**. 17:7, 17:8
- The **Promise** of **I will give** to **you** and to **your descendants**, **the land of your sojournings**, 17:8
- The **Promise** of **giving you all the land of Canaan** for an **everlasting** possession, 17:8, 12:7, 15:8, Acts 7:5

Abram

+

Land of Canaan

+

Abram’s (Physical) Descendants

Abram

+

Land of Canaan

+

Abram’s (Non-Physical) Descendants

Abrahamic Covenant – Gen 17:15-21

Abrahamic Covenant is progressively revealed in the following passages.

Gen 12:1-3, 7

Gen 13:14-17

Gen 15:12-21

Gen 17:15-21

Gen 18:18-19

Gen 22:9-19



- The **Promise** of **God** said **you** shall not call **her** name **Sarai**, but **Sarah** (princess), 17:15
- The **Promise** of **I will bless her** (Sarah), and indeed **I will give you a son** by **her**, 17:15
- The **Promise** of **I will bless her** (Sarah), and **she** shall be **a mother of nations**, 17:16
- The **Promise** of **kings** of peoples will come from **her**, 17:16
- The **Promise** of **Sarai your wife** will bear **you** a **son**, and **you** shall call **his** name **Isaac**; 17:19
- The **Promise** of **I will establish My covenant** with **him** (Isaac), 17:19, 17:21
- The **Promise** of **establishing My covenant** for an **everlasting covenant** for (Isaac’s) **descendants**, 17:19
- The **Promise** of **My covenant I will establish** with **Isaac**, 17:19

Abraham

+

Covenant established

+

Abraham’s Descendants

Abraham

+

the father of a multitude of Nations

Sarah

+

a mother of Nations and Kings

Isaac

+

Covenant established

+

Isaac’s Descendants

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS — PART 5A

Working Outline > **Genesis 18:9-15** (a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read Genesis 18:9-15 Abram was 99 years old, **Gen 17:1**, **Sarai** 90 years, **17:17**, **Ishmael** 13 years (99-86=13yrs)

- I. **9** Then **they** (the Lord and 2 Angels) said to **him**, “Where is **Sarah your wife?**”
 - A. And **he** said, “There, in the tent.”
- II. **10** **He** (the Lord) said, “**I will** surely return to **you** at **this time next year**; **21:1**
 - A. and behold, **Sarah your wife** will have a **son.**” **17:9**
 - B. And **Sarah** was listening at the tent door, which was behind **him**.
 - C. **11** Now **Abraham** and **Sarah** were old, advanced in age;
 - D. **Sarah** was past childbearing.
 - E. **12** **Sarah** laughed to **herself**, saying,
 - F. “After **I** have become old, shall **I** have pleasure, **my lord** (**Abraham**) being old also?”
- III. **13** And **the Lord** said to **Abraham**,
 - A. “Why did **Sarah** laugh, saying, ‘Shall **I** indeed bear a child, when **I** am so old?’
 - B. **14** “Is anything too difficult for **the Lord** ?
 - C. At the **appointed time I will** return to **you**, at **this time next year**,
 - D. and **Sarah** will have a **son.**” **21:1**
- IV. **15** **Sarah** denied it (laughing) however, saying, “**I** did not laugh”;
 - A. for **she** was afraid. And **He** said, “No, but **you** did laugh.”

Q1: In **verses 10** and **14**, What **2 part promise**, does **the Lord** promise will happen concerning **Sarah** ?

A1: (1) “**I will** surely return to **you** at **this time next year**” (2) “**Sarah your wife** will have a **son**”

Q2: In **verse 14**, “Is anything too difficult for **the Lord** ? **Read Jer 32:17, Matt 19:26, Rom 4:21**

A2: No, Nothing is too difficult for **the Lord**

Q2: In **verse 14**, What does “the **appointed time**” of **the Lord** tell us about **His Plans** ?

A2: **the Lord** has certain **appointed times** for everything that is to occur, all according to **His Plan** and **Purpose**. There is No chance that it will fail. **Read Gen 21:1**

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS — PART 5B

Working Outline > **Genesis 18:18-19** (a portion of a Paragraph ¶ from NAS Bible)

Read Genesis 18:18-19 Abram was 99 years old, **Gen 17:1**, **Sarai** 90 yrs, **17:17**, **Ishmael** 13 years (99-86=13yrs)

- I. **18** since **Abraham** will surely become a **great and mighty nation**, **Gen 12:2**
 - A. and in **him** all the nations of **the earth** will be **blessed** ? **Gen 12:2**
 - B. **19** “**For** (Reason) **I** have **chosen** (know) **him**,
 - C. **so that** (Reason) **he** may command **his children** and **his household** after **him**
 1. to keep **the way of the Lord**
 - a. by doing **righteousness** and **justice**,
 2. **so that** (Reason) **the Lord** may bring upon **Abraham** what **He** has spoken about **him.**”

What we learned about the **Abrahamic Covenant Promises**, in both **Gen 18:9-15** & **18:18-19**

The **Promise** of **I will** surely return to **you** at **this time next year**, **18:10**

The **Promise** of **Sarah your wife** will have a **son**, **18:10**

The **Promise** of **Abraham** will surely become a **great and mighty nation**, **18:18**

The **Promise** of in **Abraham** all the nations of **the earth** will be **blessed**, **18:18**

Abrahamic Covenant – Gen 18:18-19

Abrahamic Covenant is progressively revealed in the following passages.

Gen 12:1-3, 7

Gen 13:14-17

Gen 15:12-21

Gen 17:15-21

Gen 18:18-19

Gen 22:9-19



The **Promise** of **I will** surely return to **you** at **this time next year**, 18:10

The **Promise** of **Sarah your wife** will have a **son**, 18:10

The **Promise** of **Abraham** will surely become a **great and mighty nation**, 18:18

The **Promise** of in **Abraham** **all the nations** of **the earth** will be **blessed** ? 18:18

Abraham + Your wife will have a son

Abraham + a Great Nation

Abraham + Blessing of all (Nations)